

Second Annual meeting for North Arkansas UMW

March 8, Theme: 'To Be Alive'

United Methodist Women of the North Arkansas Conference will hear Miss Theresa Hoover, associate general secretary of the Women's Division of the Board of Global Ministries of United Methodism, when she returns to her native state on Saturday, March 8 to present the keynote address for the second annual meeting of that organization.

Miss Hoover was born in Fayetteville and holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Philander Smith College at Little Rock, and a master's degree from New York University. She joined the staff of the Woman's Division of Christian Service as a field worker in 1948, and following a broad range of experience was elevated to her present position as head of the policy-making body for 1,500,000 United Methodist Women. Miss Hoover writes the Responsively Yours column for "response" magazine, the official publication for United Methodist Women.

The one-day meeting for North Arkansas women will convene at 9:30 a.m. at Staples Auditorium on the campus of Hendrix College with Conference President Mrs. Harold Womack presiding. Posters and banners designed by women



Mrs. Womack

of the various districts will emphasize the day's theme: "To Be Alive." Opening worship will be directed by Mrs. Robert Shoemaker with Dr. Robert E. L. Bearden, Conway District superintendent offering the morning prayer.



Miss Hoover

The morning program will continue with Mrs. Womack presenting The President's Message, which will be followed by a business session and a special offering. "In Honor" gifts received at the Annual Meeting will be

given in the names of the missionaries of the North Arkansas Conference for whom birthday parties were given during 1974. "In Memory" gifts received will be sent to the Women's Division as a part of the pledge to missions in the North Arkansas Conference. A plate offering will be received, one-half of which will go to Aldersgate Camp at Little Rock, and the other half will be sent to the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

The next segment of the morning's program will include a special musical rendition by Dr. Myers Curtis, executive director of the North Arkansas Council on Ministries. A presentation entitled "To Be Alive In Mission," by Mrs. P. H. Hardin of Fort Smith, a consultative member of the Women's Division, will be followed by the Pledge Service, under the leadership of Mrs. Jim Lloyd.

During a split lunch hour scheduled to begin at 11:30 a.m., half of the women will divide into various interest groups to receive information about matters of concern to Christian women, while the other half have lunch. At 12:15, the reverse will be true as those who have

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Arkansas Methodist

Arkansas United Methodism's Newsweekly

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Evangelism in Arkansas Methodism then and now

—Reflections of a retired minister—

by the Rev. Garland C. Taylor*

I guess if I have been anything, I have been an evangelistic pastor. I started out emphasizing evangelism, and throughout my ministry, it has held a very important place in all my work and planning.

When I began my ministry, we did not have the General Board, Conference Board, or a district set-up that I knew anything about. The only planning or preparation for a revival was to announce the date and then ask the members of the church to pray for it. Of course, it had to be in the summer time. We set a beginning date but no closing date was ever specified. We would go as long as we felt the Good Lord would have us go.

We would have two services each day, morning and evening. We would have grove meetings where the women would go one direction and the men in another. They would pray, testify, and sing the old hymns of the Church, and singing as they marched in.

Then we would start singing a few hymns followed by prayers and a testimony meeting. Quite often we would "get happy" in the testimony meeting, and the preacher would not get to preach at all.

And of course, we called mourners to the "mourners bench." Most all of the new converts came this way. Sometimes

I would get one of my brother pastors to do the preaching for the revival, and other times the church would ask me to do it. We did not do a great lot of visiting in the homes, because most of it was done at the church. Quite often we would see eight or ten people out in the congregation talking to the sinners while we were singing or talking with those we had at the altar. We continued with this method of converting sinners for a number of years.

Types of Evangelism Programs

I was assigned to Gardner Memorial

Church in North Little Rock in 1942. This is where I first got involved in the visitation program. We had Dr. Roy Black and Dr. Harry Denman to lead us. Each pastor had another minister to assist him. I was fortunate to have my good friend, Dr. Ira Brumley, who would meet with us at First Methodist Church in Little Rock in the morning for instructions as how to carry on a visitation effectively. For five evenings, we would meet at the Church for a meal and then after being given instructions on how to make a visit to talk to people about their relationship to God, we



Rev. Taylor

would go out to visit. It worked — as I took 38 members into my church in one class. Twenty-seven of these were on

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'Let's update the old time religion'

A layman gives some hard-hitting counsel to America's preachers

by George M. Daniels*

Despite hard times today's leading evangelists and Sunday pulpiteers are still going strong, reaching millions of people daily and weekly with their warnings of doom and their messages of love and hope. How seriously people are taking them is a question no one has been able to answer with satisfaction.

Actually, it is somewhat reasonable to assume that either people are not listening, or the right messages aren't

getting out. Or is it that the wrong people, the victims of oppression, racism and poverty, are being preached to while the right people, those who have the power to do something about our nation's ills, are not having their consciences seared by the Word.

Other than the triple-headed monster of inflation, recession and our energy problems, some people will be tempted to say that things here are not so bad after all. And there will be those who will believe them despite the fact that

America's problems are bone deep and of long standing.

Needed: a 'massive dose of evangelism'

The truth of the matter is that America is on the brink of moral bankruptcy and what's needed is a massive dose of evangelizing. Not the old fashioned circus-tent style evangelizing, or that of the Madison Square Garden variety where tens of thousands of

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Bishop Paul E. Martin dies

Arkansas leader for 16 years

Bishop Paul Elliott Martin, for 16 years resident bishop of The Methodist Church in Arkansas and Louisiana, died Feb. 13 at Dallas, Tex., where he had made his home since retirement in 1968.

Episcopal leader of the Arkansas-Louisiana Area during 1944-60, Bishop Martin came to Arkansas from the pastorate of First United Methodist Church in Wichita Falls, Tex. Prior to that he was superintendent of the Wichita Falls District and had served pastorates in Greenville, Iowa Park, Henrietta and Dallas, all in Texas. Following his years on the Arkansas-Louisiana Area he was assigned to the Houston Area where he served for eight years until his retirement.

Funeral services were held at Highland Park United Methodist Church, Dallas, Feb. 17. Officiating were Bishops Paul V. Galloway, William C. Martin, W. Kenneth Pope, O. Eugene Slater, W. McFerrin Stowe and Aubrey G. Walton, and the Rev. Dr. Leighton Farrell and Dr. Joseph D. Quillian, Jr. The body of Bishop Martin lay in state in Southern Methodist University's Perkins Chapel prior to the memorial service. Burial was at Hillcrest Mausoleum, Dallas.

Born Dec. 31, 1897 at Blossom, Tex., the son of a physician, Dr. Charles E. Martin, and a teacher, Mrs. Willie Black Martin, Paul E. Martin attended public schools there and at nearby Paris. He was a member of the first class entering Southern Methodist University upon its opening in 1915. Upon graduation in 1919 he cancelled plans to enter the University of Texas Law School, returning instead to Blossom to be near his ill father.

There he accepted a position as principal of the local high school and was

promoted to the superintendent's post the following year. In 1920 he married his childhood sweetheart, Miss Mildred Fryar. He served as an Infantry lieutenant in World War I.

Bishop Martin had served as president of the Council on World Service and Finance for eight years and as president of the Council of Bishops in 1961-62. Among other high offices he held were president of the Board of Temperance, president of the American Section of the World Methodist Council's Budget Committee; vice president of the Board of Education's Editorial and Local Church Division, plus having served as a trustee and board member for a large number of the church's institutions and agencies. He had travelled on every continent in the interest of the Church. SMU named a building in his honor; the Paul E. and Mildred Martin Building at Western Methodist Assembly at Mt. Sequoyah was named in honor of Bishop and Mrs. Martin.

Contacted following news of Bishop Martin's death, Bishop Eugene M. Frank said "Bishop Paul Martin became a very close friend when I was elected to this office. He was the kindest man I ever knew, and his respect for persons was a direct result of this desire to befriend others. His quiet manner, his great patience and his warm approach to people will always characterize my memory of him."

Also asked for comments were Bishop Aubrey G. Walton and Bishop William C. Martin, each retired and living in Little Rock. Said Bishop Walton: "Methodism has lost a great leader. Bishop Paul E. Martin was widely known and dearly loved both in the Methodist and other communions. So great has been his

service, so unselfish his thoughts and deeds, so kind and compassionate his spirit, and so courageous and effective his ministry that our powers of expression fail us as we seek to evaluate what this devout spiritual leader has meant. . . He will be greatly missed and long remembered."

Bishop William C. Martin said "Paul Martin and I were often thought to be brothers. And in a very real sense this was true. For more than 50 years we were united by the bonds of friendship and affection. In 1938 at Birmingham, Ala., he laid his hands on my head in the Service of Consecration. Six years later in Tulsa, Okla., I did the same for him. He lived and served in the deep conviction that the Church is of God and that it has a divine message for every period of human crisis. . . He left the indelible imprint of a devoted servant of

Dr. Francis A. Buddin -

Former pastor, superintendent dies

Dr. Francis Asbury Buddin, retired member of the Little Rock Conference and veteran pastor and district superintendent, died Feb. 16 at Dallas, Tex. He was 80.

Born Sept. 18, 1894 at New Zion, S.C., he was a graduate of Wofford College where he earned the B.A. and M.A. degrees. He was ordained in 1918 in the South Carolina Conference and served that year as an Army chaplain. Other appointments served in South Carolina were the Pamplico Circuit, Kershaw, and Trinity Church in Charleston.

Coming to Arkansas in 1924 he served as pastor of Asbury Church, Little Rock, First Churches in Hope, Texarkana, Pine



Bishop Martin

Bluff and Arkadelphia.

In 1939 he transferred to the North Texas Conference, serving as pastor of Munger Place Church and later as superintendent of the Dallas District.

He returned to Arkansas in 1947 as pastor of First Church, Hot Springs. From 1950-56 he served as superintendent of the Little Rock District and later as pastor of First Churches in Camden and Newport. He retired in 1961 and made his home in Texarkana where he was named pastor emeritus of First United Methodist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Gladys Murph Buddin; a son, Francis A. Buddin, Jr., of Texas, and two daughters, Mrs. Robert M. Walker and Mrs. Robert A. Greaves, both of Texas.

Funeral service was Feb. 18 at First United Methodist Church, Texarkana, with Dr. Edwin B. Dodson, pastor, and Dr. J. Edward Dunlap, superintendent of the Little Rock District, officiating.

SHERIDAN CHURCH PLEDGES FAIR SHARE ON PENSION FUND

First United Methodist Church at Sheridan has been added to the growing list of churches of the Little Rock Conference who have pledged their fair share to the Special Gifts phase of the Pension Fund Campaign.

Eight laypersons in the Sheridan church have made pledges totaling \$4,900. The Administrative Board has, in addition, approved yearly payments which will bring the overall total to \$7,500 in Special Gifts.

The Rev. Donald F. Nolley is pastor of the church. Dr. Virgil D. Keeley is superintendent of the Pine Bluff District in which the church is located, and Mr. W. E. Ayres of Pine Bluff is the layperson in charge of fund-raising for the district.

Youth to attend Caucus

Youth from the Little Rock and North Arkansas Conference Councils on Youth Ministry are making plans to attend the South Central Jurisdictional Youth Caucus to be held at the Center For Christian Renewal, Oklahoma City, Feb. 28.

At present some 18 from the North Arkansas Conference have signed up to attend, and 11 from the Little Rock Conference.

North Arkansas Conference youth interested in details of the event should contact the Council on Ministries, 715 Center Street, Little Rock, Ark. 72201; those from the Little Rock Conference should contact the Rev. Fred Haustein, 8204 Dreher Lane, Little Rock, Ark. 72206.

Council Directors to Local Churches

United Methodist Men

The church-wide organization called United Methodist Men provides a common bond of fellowship, witness, and outreach for men in the church. Across United Methodism, these groups satisfy the unique needs of men involved in Christian mission. Through participating in similar experiences, sharing needs, and developing an understanding friendship, United Methodist Men develop a common bond that supports the total ministry of the church.

FELLOWSHIP

Men's groups provide settings in which men can intensify their brotherhood, deepen their spiritual lives, and support one another in Christian love. Across the church, groups have adopted a wide variety of meeting styles including weekly and monthly groups, evening, noon hour, and breakfast gatherings, and an unending variety of program formats.

OUTREACH

Through United Methodist Men, the men of a local congregation become involved in a variety of spiritual retreats, man-to-man visitation, and lay speaking in most groups.

WITNESS

Even though the fellowship gains from United Methodist Men's groups are most obvious, the groups encourage and intensify the witness of their members as well. Emphasis on personal discipline,

daily devotions, prayer partners, and prayer-study fellowships are coupled with opportunities for projects designed to demonstrate God's love to his world.

Through the tri-level plan, men's groups participate in national, conference, and district outreach projects as well as ministries of their own organization. In general, United Methodist Men's outreach projects are designed to be vital and varied in style, tailored to the unique interests of men, Christ-centered, and related to the general ministry of the church.

THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT

Organized men's work, as we know it, is not a new program of Methodism. The first attempts to get men together for fellowship and inspiration date back to John Wesley's time. Even at that early period, he recognized the great longing in the hearts of men to gather for fellowship under the banner of Christ.

From these humble beginnings has come a mighty movement of nearly one million men that covers the church in the United States, Liberia, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Norway, Malaya, Chile, Puerto Rico, Philippine Islands and reaches out to every other continent in the world.

EUB men and Methodist men in 1968 became The United Methodist Men working together in a program of brotherhood and Christian service unmatched by any organization outside the church.

Conway District men set meetings for 1975

Two of the three sub-district United Methodist Men's groups of the Conway District met recently to set dates for their quarterly 1975 meetings.

The Northside United Methodist Men met Jan. 28 at Levy Church, North Little Rock, and set the following times and places for their quarterly meetings, each in North Little Rock: Feb. 20, First Church; May 15, Indian Hills Church; Aug. 21, Levy Church, and Nov. 20, Gardner Church. Al Williams, president of the group, presided.

The Arkansas Valley United Methodist Men met Jan. 29 at Russellville, naming the following dates and places for their quarterly meets: March 20, Pottsville Church; May 29, Russellville First Church; Aug. 28, Atkins Church and Nov. 13, Dardanelle Church. President Jackie Sweden presided at the planning session.

All quarterly meetings of both sub-district groups will begin at 7 p.m.

Attending both set-up meetings were Dr. Robert E. L. Bearden, Conway District superintendent, Jim Lane, District lay leader, and Buddy Arnold, District director of United Methodist Men.

From the Bottom of the Heart

Bishop Paul Elliott Martin

December 31, 1897 - February 13, 1975

An appreciation

One who was a junior in the ministry during the tenure of Bishop Paul E. Martin could well feel it an impertinence or at least an impropriety to volunteer an appreciation for such an esteemed and respected leader.

The above is acknowledged not apologetically nor defensively but rather to introduce a truth about the man, the "gentle man," himself: that of such was his character that the appreciation of any who knew him - no matter what their age or association - would be an expression from the heart and therefore most appropriate.

Bishop Martin died a week ago today in Dallas. The length of his assignment in Arkansas and Louisiana - 16 years - gave us opportunity to know Bishop and Mrs. Martin in a way that a shorter tenure would not have made possible.

While personal recollections would not be inappropriate, it is even more significant to mark what could be called our common experience: that to know Bishop Paul E. Martin was to have a greater love for the Church of Jesus Christ, for its Lord and for its gospel.

To observe and be associated with this Christian pastor was to have renewed faith in the power of love. And it is not sentimental exaggeration to say that in a remarkable way he exemplified the beauty of Christianity's graces, the quiet strength of its courage, the joy of its humor and the warmth of its friendship.

It has always been difficult for Arkansas Methodists to speak simply of "Bishop Martin." The more natural phrase was, and is, "Bishop and Mrs. Martin." Together they reflected the beauty of bonded grace.

As we would share with Mrs. Martin in her loss, we would thank her for her own past, present and continuing ministries. And we rejoice with her in the reward which her husband and our friend has claimed.

We can be understood when we say that what we feel is not so much "sadness" as it is the soul's shout of praise that our days have been blessed by such a man as Paul E. Martin.

What a peace and joy it is to know that those whom we have loved and lost, we have lost only awhile.

The falling and rising of giants
Some thoughts on leadership

The deaths of two leaders in Arkansas Methodism, Bishop Paul E. Martin and Dr. Francis Asbury Buddin, afford occasion for us - especially those of us who have thought of ourselves as in that category of "younger ministers" - to make a needed observation.

We are tempted, when the giants of our years pass, to think or say "there aren't many more around like they were."

That, of course, is not an improper tribute and it is an understandable feeling. But if we were to agree with the prophets of gloom who claim that we have no great contemporary leadership, that would be a frightening assessment, an even fatal consent.

Such a claim is, of course, wrong. And it is men like these we have mentioned and hosts of others we could name who are at least partially responsible for the opposite being true.

Contemporary leadership in every arena of life - nation, church, whatever - faces challenges of a different order than those faced by the leadership of former days.

Consider how the times are different. The suspicion of government, of the establishment, of almost all institutions, makes our age less receptive to leadership.

And consider how complex are the issues of the day! They are vastly more explosive, more confused, more beyond control than in any previous time.

And it is not unrelated to acknowledge another element in the popular negative assessments of leadership. Those who make such judgments are themselves getting older; and we all tend to regard our contemporaries with less awe and reverence (possibly because they are so like ourselves) than as younger persons we regarded our elders.

Whatever the reasons, contemporary leadership is faced with the most awesome of challenges. Our leaders need not only that understanding; they deserve our prayerful undergirding.

The death of President Abraham Lincoln moved a poet to liken his passing to the falling of a giant tree in the forest, leaving "an empty place against the sky."

But the very nature of our faith tells us this: trees are still growing in the forest, and empty places against the sky are being filled and will again and again be filled!

God buries his workmen but he continues his work. Praise be to God.

Off the Top of the Head

'In a Wigwam' - opus number four

How much character can one person take?

You should be glad I'm writing this tonight and not tomorrow night. Tonight is the evening before our fifth grader begins his piano lessons.

And another believe me: I am not, at this point, physically ready for the realization that this is probably going to continue for the next several years, right here in our own living room, just one short hallway and one thin closed door away from my study!

Those of you, who like myself, have served several previous terms of piano lessons for your children will know what I'm talking about. Those who haven't will just have to do their best to imagine, for nothing I am allowed to print here could adequately "splain" it to you.

Now, lest I be misunderstood let me be quick to say that I am all for music lessons for the children. Seriously I am. I just wish there were some way they could start out playing "Moonlight Sonata" or "Stardust" or some Schumann or Brahms or Rachmaninoff rather than "The Typewriter" and "Oscar the Octopus" and "Chief Thunder Cloud" and "Mr. Frog Is Full of Hops."

But alas, I know that such wishing is as unreal as expecting all preachers to start out preaching like Harry Emerson Fosdick or all novice editors to begin their editing like Whoever It Is all editors should edit like.

And besides, in addition to the musical skills learned, the experience is a great producer of character. It is only incidental that the character which is produced is not so much that of the trainee as it is that of those innocent and unsung souls who must be around the house during practice hours.

In fact, looking forward to my fourth sentence, I expect very soon to possess a whole lot more character than I can enjoy.

Detente

It has occurred to me that a List of Ground Rules might be appropriate as our youngest son begins his piano lessons tomorrow (see above). Among such should be the following:

- 1. NEVER remove the brick which has been tied to the "soft" pedal.
2. After making a mistake, ALWAYS begin again at the point of the mistake; NEVER return to the beginning of the selection, playing it completely through again.
3. Unless extenuating circumstances prevent (such as a fire in the house, etc.), ALWAYS do your after-supper practicing in the afternoon just after arriving home from school and before Father returns home from work.

There are surely others, but these will do for starters.

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Handwritten initials JSW

"You're the most important person in the whole teaching situation! And I hope you're aware that you're far more important than your resources and tools!"

That was the answer. The question was: "If you had one thing to say to teachers of children in Arkansas' United Methodist church schools, what would that be?" And we asked it of Miss Jean Buchanan of Nashville, Tenn., editor of *One-Two Story Paper* and the One-Two Vacation Church School material, in Little Rock last week to lead workshops on new resources in children's ministry (see box).

Miss Buchanan emphasized that the teacher is the key person because he or she has "experiences that come out of being a part of the Church; experiences that are very rich and very vital." She added "I just think teachers don't understand how important they are in this whole process of Christian education."

'Teach children, not materials'

One of Miss Buchanan's primary concerns is to enable teachers to "get ahold of a basic concept": to understand "the difference between curriculum and curriculum resources."

Curriculum, she says, is "what the teachers plan." Curriculum resources are "the tools and guides to help them as they plan." The distinction is important, she claims, because "more people teach materials than teach children." She believes the church has failed to help teachers see "the materials are only the tools; they are not the end." The end, she says, is "the teacher planning with her particular children in mind."

Miss Buchanan believes the greatest need in the children's division is that "teachers become better trained." She recommends that each local church have a "support system" for their teachers: an on-going group to help them as they prepare, coordinate, and evaluate their work, and as they deal with needs and problems.

She observes that many teachers receive good help and support when they begin, but after that are "pretty much on their own."

Asked how long an individual should remain in a teaching situation, Miss Buchanan replied "for as long as she or he has the children's interest at heart

'Focus On Children-1975'

For the first time since 1962-64, The United Methodist Church has designated an official emphasis on children's work in the Church School. "Focus On Children - 1975" is the theme which will direct attention to children's work in general and a new set of curriculum resources in particular.

A series of 70 workshops is being held across the nation to introduce the new resources, to be available in the fall of this year, and to bring attention to the year of special emphasis. Some 24 persons from the Division of Education of the church's general Board of Discipleship will be staffing those workshops.

Two such events were held in Arkansas this last week, one each for persons from the state's two conferences. Attending were district teams consisting of the district superintendent, the district coordinator of children's ministries plus four to six persons recruited from each district.

Giving leadership in preparation for the two events were Mrs. John L. Tucker of the Council on Ministries staff of the Little Rock Conference and coordinator of children's ministries for that conference, and Mrs. Jim Beal of Newport, coordinator of children's ministries for the North Arkansas Conference.

†



Miss Jean Buchanan, right, editor of children's curriculum materials, Board of Discipleship in Nashville, was the resource leader for Curriculum Workshops at Methodist Headquarters on Feb. 10 and 11. Shown with her is Mrs. Jim Beal of Newport, coordinator of Children's Ministries and director of the Workshop for North Arkansas Conference.

and is able to give," adding that could be "a year or less or many years."

Concerning the quality most needed in a teacher of children, the veteran educator said "a real interest in children, the time and the willingness to give that time in training and in preparation." "And," she added, "one needs the identification of being a good church member, so a good example is set in worship attendance and other participation in the life of the congregation."

The new system

What is the new system of resources in Christian education for children which will be available in the fall of 1975?

Miss Buchanan explains there are three component parts of the system: the Christian Studies Series and the Exploring the Bible Series, both designed for Sunday morning class sessions, and Resources for a Variety of Settings, an offering of materials for use in vacation church school, day or resident camp, mission study groups, or other through-the-week settings.

The Christian Studies Series is described as "a biblically based series with units on a wide range of concerns related to the Christian faith and life." It includes "a balance of Bible study, Christian heritage, and present day concerns." It is a more "closely graded" series, designed for use with children

from infant through older elementary ages.

The Exploring the Bible series, a more "Bible oriented" approach, is "organized around biblical content to help children become familiar with the Bible message, discover its meaning, and find meaning for their own lives."

The goal of the series is that children "may respond to God through Jesus Christ in love, faith, and obedience, and may assume responsibility for living the faith in ways appropriate to them." A more "broadly graded" series, it is available in units for use with children from ages two through 12.

Among the wide selection categorized as Resources for a Variety of Settings (some listed four paragraphs above), are new elective units which will become available in the fall of this year.

We asked Miss Buchanan what was new about the "new system" and whether different teaching skills and additional training would be required.

She answered "no," adding "We're hoping teachers will take an 'overlook' at their entire ministry with children and try to understand what ministry and curriculum mean. And then we hope they will choose the curriculum resources that will help fit the ministry they want with their children."

She emphasized that one focus of the new system was "to help teachers stop and take a look; let them see what they are doing with their children, let them evaluate and plan their ministry, and then choose resources which can help them accomplish that ministry."

'Not bigger, but better'

Noting that there are not as many children in church school classes today as a decade ago ("due to the birth decline and the fact that not as many are joining the church"), Miss Buchanan emphasized the importance of the commitment of all concerned in the Christian education experience.

Dr. J. Edward Dunlap, Little Rock District superintendent, and Christian education leaders of the area in working session during Curriculum workshop.



District coordinators of the North Arkansas Conference with Miss Buchanan, resource leader, and the Rev. Arvill C. Brannon, left, who served as the conference staff representative for the Feb. 11 Curriculum Workshop at Methodist Headquarters.



District coordinators of the Little Rock Conference with Miss Buchanan, resource leader for the Feb. 10 Curriculum Workshop at Methodist Headquarters. Shown in back row, left to right are: Dr. George W. Martin, Arkadelphia District superintendent, Dr. Virgil Keeley, Pine Bluff District superintendent, and the Rev. Charles Ashcraft, chairman of the conference Board of Education.

NEWS and opinion

summary by Doris Woolard



National Religious Broadcasters, representing about 85 per cent of all conservative Protestant radio and television programs and stations in this country, has adopted a resolution urging "all interested parties" to submit written statements to the Federal Communications Commission in opposition to a petition filed in December by Jeremy D. Lansman and Lorenzo W. Milam of Los Gatos, Calif. The 20-page petition includes a "Request for 'Freeze' on all applications by religious, 'Bible,' 'Christian,' and other sectarian schools, colleges and institutions for reserved Educational FM and TV Channels."

Sen. Jesse Helms (North Carolina) has introduced a resolution in the U.S. Senate that would restore the offering of voluntary prayer in the nation's public schools by limiting the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court without amending the U.S. Constitution. "In anticipation of judicial usurpations of powers" Helms said, "the framers of the Constitution wisely gave Congress the authority to check the Supreme Court through regulation of its appellate jurisdiction."

Sen. Robert C. Byrd (W.Va.) said in an interview that young people of great religious faith with a determined stand can work in government and help reverse the nation's spiritual decline. Sen. Byrd said, "I advise young people to work, study, and to believe in themselves and in the system." He said young people "can go as far and as high as common sense, ambition, drive and a willingness to work will take them."

The House of Bishops of Canada's Anglican Church has issued a statement rejecting the plan of union proposed for their Church and the United Church of Canada and The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The statement said, "We find ourselves agreed . . . that the plan of union in its present form is unacceptable . . . Most of us doubt that there is serious hope for a successful outcome to a further revision process."

Dr. William L. Self, a Southern Baptist pastor in Atlanta, and his wife have been invited to visit South Korea to examine the religious situation and report back on alleged religious oppression in that country. The couple will have an official audience with President Park Chung Hee and will meet with members of the South Korean National Assembly. A spokesman for the Park administration said, "Dr. Self will have full access to all facets of South Korean life, including those people opposed to President Park, and he will be free to ask any questions on his mind."

Up to six Sudan Interior Mission missionaries from Canada, the U.S. and other countries have been permitted to enter Sudan during the last two years to work with a coalition of other mission groups on relief and rehabilitation. All missionaries had been expelled in 1964 during a civil war.

Protestant ministers from a dozen denominations called a press conference in Toronto to demand that hospitals adhere strictly to federal abortion legislation, and reaffirmed the biblical view of "the sanctity of all human life." They criticized what they called "the misconception that the anti-abortion position is merely a sectarian stance of the Roman Catholic Church." They said, "The Protestant community also views abortion as a moral issue, not just a medical one."

"Integrity" is the theme of a national seminar scheduled for March 10-12 by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. Key speakers will include such widely known personages as U.S. Sen. Sam Ervin, Sen. George McGovern, Dr. George A. Buttrick, the noted preacher; Dr. Carlyle Marney, director of Interpreters' House, Lake Junaluska, N.C., and Dr. Oswald Hoffman, speaker on the Lutheran Hour.

The London Times reports that inflation is bringing the Church of England to the "brink of crisis." The report suggests that the financial crunch could, conceivably, lead the Church in "a new direction." "It could lead to the breaking of the mold of the Anglican parish ministry," it says, with the clergyman having to make "a sizeable contribution to his own upkeep by his own initiative, taking on part-time teaching or social work, or even learning another skill to earn a living for himself and his family."

The National Board of the Academy of Parish Clergy, Inc., an interreligious organization dedicated to maintaining the professional standards of clergy, has condemned the Soviet government for its "repression of religious freedom." Specifically, the board condemned the reported sentencing of dissident Baptist leader Georgi Vins to five years in prison, and five years in exile, and the repression of Soviet Jews seeking to emigrate.

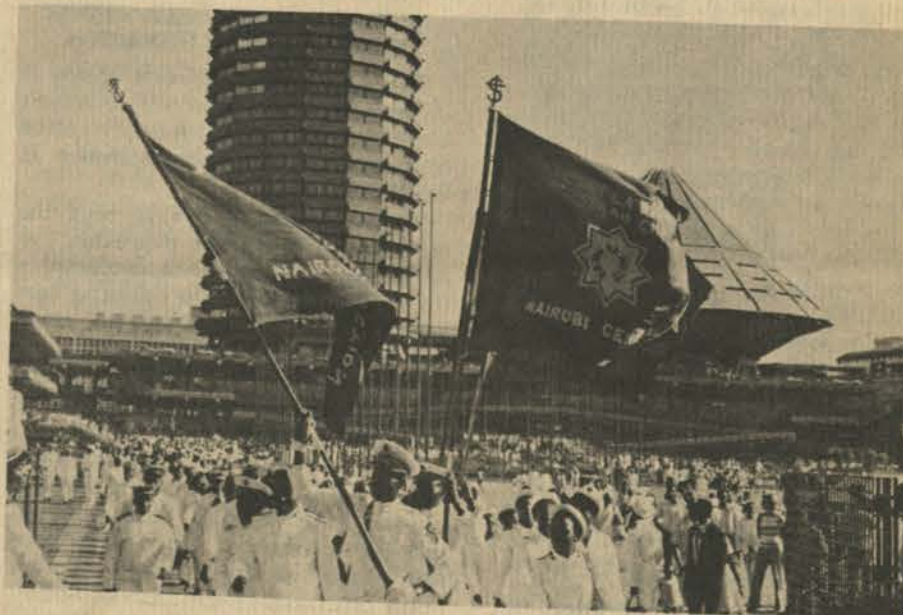
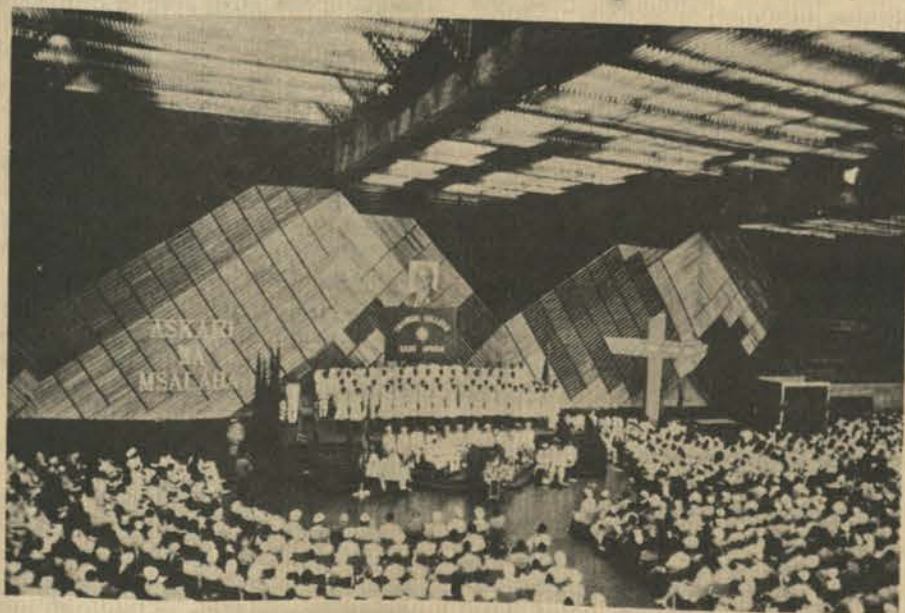
A group of Episcopal bishops, clergy and laity has organized a National Coalition for Women's Ordination to the Priesthood and Episcopate. The coalition's Policy Board is reported as seeing the denomination "perilously close to schism if the issue of women's ordination is not dealt with justly, promptly and forthrightly." A "massive campaign" is planned to push its cause prior to the 1976 Episcopal General Convention.

The Rev. N. Bruce McLeod, former moderator of the United General Council (Toronto), is going to Costa Rica for a year as an unpaid worker to help build a village for abandoned children. Dr. McLeod recently resigned his pastorate, saying he needed a year off to think about the future direction of his life.

Each of Singapore's working Moslems is being asked to pay a voluntary tax of 25 cents a month to be used for building new mosques. The surprise request by the government was seen by observers as a means of placating some Moslem leaders who have been unhappy with government urban renewal projects. Of Singapore's 2.2 million people, more than half (1.3 million) are Buddhists. There are 300,000 Moslems, 100,000 Hindus, and 150,000 Christians.

"Are We Our Brothers' and Sisters' Keepers?" was the theme for the annual meeting of Church Women United in the Salt Lake City metropolitan area. A resolution to endorse the Equal Rights Amendment was adopted by delegates to the meeting.

Dr. Harvey Cox, Harvard University professor, in an address before the annual Miami Clergy Institute appealed to ministers to stop being "embarrassed about the healing power of religion." The author of such popular books as *The Secular City* also criticized institutional religion for abandoning "emotion" in worship.



Kenya, Site Of World Council's Fifth Assembly

NAIROBI, Kenya — The Salvation Army celebrates outside (above) and meets inside Nairobi's Kenyatta Center during a gathering of 6,000 members of the Salvation Army from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. In November 1975, the World Council of Churches will hold its Fifth Assembly at Kenyatta Center, an ultra-

modern complex of buildings in Nairobi named after the founder of the Republic of Kenya, President Jomo Kenyatta. The Assembly will bring together approximately 750 delegates from the Council's 271 Protestant and Orthodox member churches. (RNS Photo, by John Taylor)

News from the churches

THIRTY-TWO members of the Gillett Church visited the Methodist Children's Home in Little Rock on Sunday, Feb. 9th. The group included members of the Pairs and Spares Sunday School Class and their families. They viewed a film depicting the home's program and activities, toured a cottage, and met the young lady at the home whom they sponsor.

THE REV. ORALL JOSEPH, pastor of Mt. Zion, Macedonia, and New Hope churches in Hope District, and his new bride were honored with a reception given by the Mt. Zion unit of United Methodist Women. The honorees received gifts from the three churches represented.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of United Methodist Women of Asbury Church, Magnolia, invited four officers of the Fairview Unit, Camden, to share "helpful suggestions" at one of their recent meetings. Fairview officers attending the meeting included Mona Jeffus, chairperson on nominations; Barbara Williams, coordinator for social involvement; Lillian Loe, treasurer, and Marguerite Branch, chairperson on membership.

MRS. ROY WELD of Fisher Street Church in Jonesboro, led United Methodist Women of Weiner Church in the study of "Jonah." Twenty members and guests attended most of the sessions and gave a "love offering" in the amount of \$47 for use in mission projects of their own choosing.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN of First United Methodist Church, North Little Rock, have elected Mary Bush as president for 1975. Other new officers are: Pat Landers, first vice president; Bonnie Blackwood, second vice president; Grace Rommell, secretary; Maysel Goss, assistant secretary; Bunny Porter, treasurer; Jean Miller, chairperson of nominations; Juanita Chumney, secretary of program resources and Anna Eastenes, chairperson of membership.

SUB-DISTRICT BANQUET HELD AT ST. PAUL, EL DORADO

The annual Valentine banquet honoring United Methodist Youth groups in the El Dorado area was held at St. Paul's Church on Monday evening, Feb. 3, with Debbie Carter, president of the host organization, welcoming the group.

Elected to reign as King and Queen were Pete Watson and Rhonda McKinnon, members of the Marysville-Silver Hill UMY. Entertainment was provided by the Joyce Newman Dancers of El Dorado with music by the combo, Penn Central.

An election of new officers is slated for the next Sub-District meeting which will be held on April 7 at First Church in El Dorado.

Daylight Saving Time Change
We would remind our readers of the necessity to set their clocks ahead one hour before retiring this Saturday night — in order to be ready for the Feb. 23rd time change.

PASTOR LUKE OF INDIA TO LEAD MISSION EVENT AT CAMDEN

The Rev. Manoranjan Luke, pastor of Centenary Methodist English Church, Hyderabad, India, will be the visiting guest missionary, preacher, and teacher for the New World Mission Project at Fairview Church, Camden during the week of March 9-13.

Now in progress at Fairview Church, the first phase of the mission centers around weekly meetings of adults, youth and children in five Shalom groups. One group, under the leadership of Mrs. Bess Hale, meets in her home each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. Two separate groups meet at the church on Wednesday evening at 7 p.m., and two others meet at the church each Sunday at 5 p.m.

The project is under the guidance of the church's Council on Ministries.

HAMBURG CHURCH DEDICATES MEMORIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Rev. Everett Vinson, Monticello District superintendent, dedicated three instruments presented as memorial gifts to First Church, Hamburg in a recent Sunday ceremony. Assisting were the Rev. Virgil Bell, a former pastor, and the Rev. William A. Stewart, the present pastor. Mr. Louis Gene Foote, chairman of the Organ Committee, presented the gifts in behalf of the congregation and Mr. Earl Scott, chairman of the Board of Trustees, accepted.

Dedicated were the Hammond Organ, memorializing 30 members of the church; chimes in memory of Henry Eugene Foote, given by Mr. and Mrs. Louie Gene Foote and Mr. and Mrs. Steve Barnett, and tower chimes in memory of James J. Fischer were given by Mrs. James Fischer, Randy Fischer, Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Fischer and Mr. and Mrs. Steve Fischer.

Special music was presented by Mrs. W. D. Law, organist, and the choir, under the direction of Mrs. Bruin Campbell, with Mrs. T. W. Chapman serving as pianist.

METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME RECEIVES BEEF DONATION

The Methodist Children's Home in Little Rock is one of several children's homes in Arkansas which have received donations of beef from cattlemen in White County.

The cattlemen, who have been the victims of the current depressed live cattle market, last month conducted a Goodwill Cattle Roundup, collecting beef valued at \$6,000-\$7,000 on the retail market. The calves were taken to a Searcy slaughterhouse where almost 10,000 pounds of beef was processed for use in designated children's homes.

Dr. J. D. Patterson of Searcy, president of the Cattlemen's Association, said the slaughter of the cattle for the purpose of helping the institutions seemed a better way of calling attention to the cattlemen's plight than slaughtering cattle and burying the carcasses.

The principal beneficiaries of the slaughter, in addition to the Methodist Home, were the Southern Christian Home at Morrilton and the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children at Monticello.

BISHOP FRANK WILL PREACH AT WESLEY CHURCH

Members of five United Methodist Churches in the Little Rock area of the former Southwest Conference will hear Bishop Eugene M. Frank preach for the Feb. 23rd evening service to be held at Wesley United Methodist Church, 1100 State Street, in Little Rock, at 7 p.m.

Bishop Frank will also install officers who will serve an organization of the group for which Mr. Wendell Strong has been elected president.

Participating churches include, in addition to Wesley Church, White Memorial, Duncan Chapel, St. Mark and St. Paul, Maumelle.

Personalia

MRS. MARTHA ANTOLIK, soloist for the Sanctuary Choir and director of activities at Winfield United Methodist Church, Little Rock, tied for first place in the District Metropolitan Opera Auditions at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Sunday afternoon, Feb. 16. Mrs. Antolik, a mezzo-soprano, will compete in the Mid-South Regional Auditions in Memphis.

MICHAEL HUGHES, son of Dr. and Mrs. Earl Hughes of Forrest City, and Erii Ann Barnett, daughter of Mrs. O. W. Barnett of Pine Bluff, were married at First Baptist Church, Pine Bluff on Dec. 27. Dr. Hughes, assisted by Dr. John McClanahan, pastor of the church, officiated at the wedding ceremony. The newly married couple is presently living in Nashville, Tenn., where the bride is working toward her Master's degree. They expect to enter Perkins School of Theology in Dallas in September.

WEDDING VOWS were solemnized for Carolyn Holifield and Scott Ringold at Fisher Street United Methodist Church in Jonesboro on Dec. 21. The bride's father, the Rev. Pharis J. Holifield, and her brother, the Rev. J. Anthony Holifield, officiated. Mrs. Ringold, a graduate of Brinkley High School and Asbury College, Wilmore, Ky., will graduate from the Baptist Memorial School of Nursing in Memphis in March. Mr. Ringold, the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Samuel Ringold of Columbus, Ohio, will graduate from Memphis State University where his major is in music. He is a member of the Memphis Symphony and drum major for the MSU marching band. He expects to do post-graduate work at MSU.

JAYCEES HONOR INDIAN HILLS PASTOR

The Rev. N. Wayne Clark, pastor of Indian Hills United Methodist Church, North Little Rock, was recently honored with the coveted Distinguished Service Award, given annually by the North Hills Jaycees at that organization's annual Distinguished Service Awards Banquet. The honoree was cited for his outstanding leadership and contribution to his church. Master of Ceremonies Rick Ingalls stated that, "Under Rev. Clark's leadership the church has flourished. The budget has gone from \$24,000 to \$50,000 plus. Attendance at services and Sunday School has nearly tripled." Other awards were presented for Outstanding Young Educator, Outstanding Young Fireman, and Outstanding Young Law Enforcement Officer.

NEEDED: CAMP TANAKO SUPERINTENDENT

The Board of Trustees of Camp Tanako will accept applications for the position of superintendent at Camp Tanako — the work to begin as soon as possible.

Applications may be made immediately to the Rev. Robert O. Beck, 715 Center St., Little Rock, Ark. 72201, or the Rev. Gladwin Connell, 1012 S. Magnolia, El Dorado, Ark. 71730. All applications received by March 15 will be considered.

Year-round home provided. Utilities, salary, and fringe benefits. Applicants will be asked for interview, and will be notified of the decision.

THE JANUARY 23 issue of the *Arkansas Methodist* carried the obituary of the Rev. Charles E. Messer, Sr., of Horatio, retired Lay Minister of the Little Rock Conference who died Jan. 14. In addition to the pastoral appointments listed in that issue, Mr. Messer served the following churches: Dierks, Ferv Memorial, Horatio, Village, Bradley, Dierks (on two occasions) and the Winthrop Circuit.

MISS EVELYN BRIANT

Miss Evelyn Briant, 56, died Jan. 30 in a Texarkana hospital. She was a member of First United Methodist Church in Hope and had in past years served as a staff member for numerous training schools at Camp Tanako. She was a certified teacher with the Board of Education of the Little Rock Conference.

The funeral service was held at the Herndon Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Norris Steele officiating. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery. Survivors include two aunts, one uncle, and a number of cousins.

MISS MATTY LA CARRE SPEED

The funeral service for Miss Matty La Carre Speed of Sikeston, Mo., was held Feb. 8 at Smith Chapel United Methodist Church in that city.

Born in Hughes, Ark., Miss Smith taught in the public schools in Hughes for 11 years. She was a graduate, with high honors, of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. She was a member of Smith Chapel United Methodist Church in Hughes.

She moved to Sikeston, Mo., in 1956 and taught in the public schools of New Madrid County until her recent illness. She attended the Smith Chapel United Methodist Church in Sikeston.

Miss Speed served as a Girl Scout and Four H Club leader, receiving national awards for service in those organizations, and was active in other community agencies.

Survivors include six sisters, Mrs. Willia May Brown of New Madrid, Mo., Mrs. Ruth Irving and Mrs. Capitole Henderson of Corapolis, Pa., Mrs. Fredericka Gray of Blytheville, Ark., Mrs. Annie M. Mahae of Jonesboro, Ark., and Mrs. Mary F. Davis of Santa Ana, Calif.; and one brother, Mr. Woodrow W. Speed, Sr., of Hughes, Ark.

The Rev. C. B. Banks, pastor of Smith Chapel United Methodist Church in Hughes, officiated at the funeral service.

North Arkansas UMW

(Continued from page one)

had lunch attend interest groups and the other half go to lunch.

The fifteen interest groups, covering a wide range of subjects — and their leaders, will include: Mission Impossible, Unless (concerns the pledge), Mrs. Jim Lloyd; Responsively Yours, Miss Hoover; New Life, Prison Rehabilitation, the Rev. E. Eugene Efird; Christian Civic Foundation, the Rev. Edward W. Harris; Global Ministries, Mrs. P. H. Hardin.

Other interest groups and their leaders will include: Child Advocacy, Dr. Roger B. Bost; Aldersgate Ministry to Senior Citizens, Mrs. Edward W. Harris; Women, Amen, Mrs. Ben Jordan; Communication, the Rev. John S. Workman; Personal Enrichment, Mrs. Ethan Dodgen; Community Development, Mrs. Ellsworth D. Winton; Inclusiveness, Joan Clark; Creative Worship, Mildred Osment; Church Women United, Sister M. Florence Yutterman, and Alive As United Methodist Women, Mrs. Alice Preston.

The afternoon session will resume with congregational singing under the leadership of Avis Moore and a presentation entitled, "We are alive and well," by Kathleen Sharp. At this point in the day's program, Miss Hoover will

St. Paul offers seminar for young pastors

"The Early Years in Ministry: Problems and Possibilities" will be the theme for a March 3-6 continuing education seminar sponsored by St. Paul School of Theology and held at its Kansas City, Mo., campus. The event is designed for those who have been out of seminary from one to seven years.

The United Methodist seminary's director of Continuing Education, Dr. William F. Case, states that the seminar will provide "an arena where commonly felt learning and growth needs and stress situations can be openly discussed with peers and competent resource persons." He states that formal lectures will be minimized, allowing participants to work with colleagues on problems and possibilities for development in ministry.

Resource leaders for the event are Mark Rouch, co-director of Interpreters' House, and Glenn Matthews, superintendent of ministries of the Kansas Area of The United Methodist Church.

Tuition for the seminar is \$50, room and board \$35. Interested persons should inquire through their Conference Board of Ministry for the availability of continuing education funds. Registration may be made to Joyce White, 5132 Truman Road, Kansas City, Mo. 64127 (phone: 816-438-9600). Deadline for enrollment is Feb. 26.

†

METHODIST HOSPITAL SUNDAY —

February 23

In the

North Arkansas Conference

Offering to support the Methodist Hospital

(Memphis)

Golden Anniversary Drive

Thursday, February 20, 1975

present the keynote address, using as her subject "To Be Alive," the theme of the day.

New conference officers will be installed by Mary Margaret Crumpler, and the meeting will conclude at 3 p.m. following the closing celebration under the direction of Mrs. D. C. Neal, conference chairperson of Christian Personhood.

The Program Committee planning the annual event includes the president, Mrs. Womack, Mrs. J. Clarence Wilcox, Mrs. D. C. Neal, Kathleen Sharp, Mrs. Jim Lloyd, Mrs. Billy Burns, Mrs. Earl Hughes, and Mrs. James Chandler, chairperson. United Methodist Women of Conway District, under the leadership of Mrs. Ed Davis, will serve as hostesses for the day.

Pre-registrations should be in the hands of Mrs. Ed Davis, 301 Devon, North Little Rock, Ark. 72116, no later than Feb. 25th. The cost of the meeting will be \$2 for lunch, 50 cents for insurance, and \$1.50 for registration (total, \$4). Registrants are requested also to list their first, second, and third choices for interest groups in which they would like to be involved.

†

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of United Methodist Women of Paragould District met at First Church, Corning on Saturday, Feb. 8th, with Mrs. Robert Shannon, district president, presiding. Plans relating to the meeting of United Methodist Women of the North Arkansas Conference to be held at Conway on March 8th were discussed. The Spring meeting for women of the district will be held Sunday, April 6th at Shiloh Church, west of Paragould, with registration from 1:30 p.m. until 2 o'clock. Mrs. Pauline Chaney, Program Committee chairperson, will be assisted by the coordinators with the program.

From Our Readers . . .

MORE FOWL PLAY

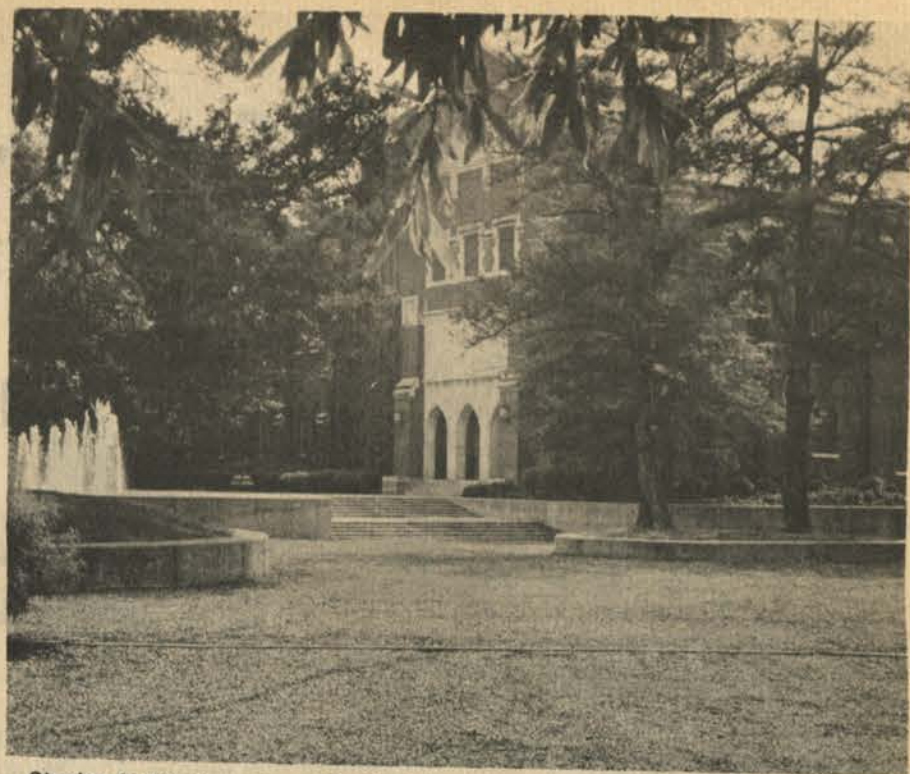
To the Editor:

Once again the Sharp Circuit Riders of the Batesville District and the UMYF of Black Rock in the Paragould District, along with interested adults, got fowled up by catching 32,000 chickens the night of Feb. 2. Each group, in addition to scratches and tired aching muscles, will have \$160 in their treasury. In addition to their singing programs, the Sharp Circuit Riders hope to keep up this work of catching chickens on neighboring farms.

We do not wish to give the Methodists a name of being a "chicken outfit" but we think this is a good way to raise money for the various youth projects. The Circuit Riders intend to sing at the First Presbyterian Church in Batesville on the night of Feb. 12 and at the Nursing Home in Batesville on March 9 at 2:00 p.m. We would like to invite our friends to the Nursing Home on this date.

We appreciated very much the fine spirit and cooperation of the Black Rock group on this recent adventure, and hope when their nail-scarred hands are healed, they will wish to help us again.

Forrest Thomas
Sharp Circuit
P. O. Box 2662
Batesville, Ark. 72501



Staples Auditorium where North Arkansas UMW Annual Meeting will be held.

Hendrick Scholarship Fund established

The directors of the Max and Enid Hendrick Foundation Inc., have established the Max Hendrick Jr., Memorial Scholarship Fund at Hendrix College. Income from the grant of \$10,000 will be used for scholarship awards to Hendrix students who are studying in the areas of science and mathematics, economics and business, or history and political science.

A faculty committee will select the recipient of each award on the basis of academic ability, general intelligence and personal character with due consideration of the individual's financial circumstances.

Max Hendrick Jr., who died in 1974, was a Certified Public Accountant in

Midland, Tex. With his family he had lived in Midland since 1947.

Born in Dickinson, N.D., in 1916, Hendrick began work with the Lion Oil Company in El Dorado, Ark., in 1937, after living in Hot Springs for several years. In 1938, he married the former Enid Kimes of El Dorado, a 1938 graduate of Hendrix.

Hendrick passed the CPA exam in 1940 and the Arkansas Bar in 1942. He became a member of the Texas CPA association and the Permian Basin CPA association.

The Hendricks, members of the United Methodist Church, had three sons. Gary is a pharmacist in Dibold, Tex., and Max III is an attorney in Houston. Edward is presently completing work toward his Ph.D. degree in particle physics at Rockefeller University. The younger two of the three sons are Hendrix graduates.

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MALLALIEU MINISTRY NOT FEDERALLY FUNDED

To the Editor:

On behalf of Mallalieu Church and Center, we are grateful for your feature article in the January 16th edition of the *Arkansas Methodist* entitled "Mallalieu's Ministry of Outreach."

As a Black church in the North Arkansas Conference, your article was very helpful not only in the promotion of Human Relations Day, but in communicating the dynamism which surrounds the efforts of the Black to be relevant.


You may be interested to know that the Mallalieu Community Center has approximately 400 persons actively serviced monthly in programs designed for human development. The Mallalieu-Mt. Olive charge is the only Black charge in the Fort Smith District; however, we are demonstrating the relevance that a small Black congregation (76 adults) may have upon a community.

We have a staff of 24 persons with 9 paid employees. We have a projected budget of \$46,000 for the Center. We are operating on gifts from churches, organizations and individuals. Contrary to many beliefs, we are not federally subsidized . . .

Robert E. Felder
Pastor, Mallalieu United Methodist Church
Fort Smith, Ark.

P.S. We will host the Appalachia Service Project June 22-August 2, 1975.

Miracles do happen



One Great Hour of Sharing
March 9, 1975

Your offering supports the work of UMCOR:

**Emergency relief
Rehabilitation
Refugee Resettlement
Renewal of Life**

United Methodist Communications
Division of
Program and Benevolence Interpretation
1200 Davis St., Evanston, Ill. 60201

The Sunday School Lesson

by SARAH GALLOWAY



How Is God Known Best?

Lesson for March 2

Background Scripture: Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:1-9.

Devotional Reading: John 1:1-13; Hebrews — the entire book. (Can be read in less than an hour.)

Orientation: Continuing under the six-year cycle in the International Series, "The Living God Seeks Man," we enter the third quarter of the first Church School Year. The quarter's study will be presented in two units — the first, the Book of Hebrews in five lessons, and second, Old Testament themes in eight lessons. The Hebrew unit is entitled "Counsels of Faith and Courage."



A BRIEF LOOK AT HEBREWS

The book is called, variously, The Epistle to the Hebrews, The Letter to the Hebrews, and just Hebrews. Webster uses the terms "epistle" and "letter" interchangeably. The Interpreter's Bible observes that the book begins like a treatise, and ends like a letter. Several writers and commentators confess that it is the least known, and most difficult to understand, of any of the books and letters of the New Testament regarding the Christian gospel and or faith, and that it is not altogether easy to read.

There is considerable agreement among them that the author is unknown except to "God Himself" (Int. Bible), but the book itself tells us a good deal about the kind of person the author was — a subtle, profound, abstruse theologian — intensely practical. Barclay suggests that he had both a Hebrew and Greek background because he was equally oriented in the forms, ideas, and patterns of Greek philosophy and religious thinking, that man could get away from the shadows and imperfections to reach reality, and the Hebrew Covenant idea, that man could approach God only by keeping the law. The author was undoubtedly a scholar and a teacher.

Neither is the date definite, but it is believed to have been written in the late A.D. 70's or early 80's. This being the case its message was most likely to second-generation Christians — even to an established Church group in danger of misunderstanding and drifting away from the faith, living as they were in surroundings of doubt, paganism, and persecution.

The book was written in the vocabulary of the people, both raising and answering questions regarding their troubles, and their hope through faith.

The message of Hebrews comes across to me in chapter 10, verse 19 where it is pointed out that we may walk "right into the Holy of Holies," where God is, because of the self-giving of Jesus, whose being we celebrate in this first study.

As you read Hebrews you may want to look for the five affirmations of faith we will be studying in this unit.

1. We have a revelation. 2. We have a Christ (a great high priest). 3. We have a new relationship. 4. We have a faith. 5. We have a hope.

In today's lesson — How is God Known Best? First a look at:

The PURPOSE: To become more aware of God's presence in our living day to day. Why? How?

Then the SCRIPTURE: God, after speaking to man in various ways throughout all history — by the prophets, angels, Moses, priestly sacrifices, visions, dreams, all the messengers of heaven, wind, fire and hail, and especially through the law, now has made the supreme revelation of himself and his purpose to redeem all of his creation. And while he still speaks to us through his many gifts and mercies, he spoke triumphantly, finally so, through his Son.

Indeed the revelation of God in giving us Jesus, supersedes any and all those of the past, making it the all-inclusive case for the Christian faith for all time — for all peoples. In other words, the ultimate victory that overcomes the world. Need we look for another? This final triumph had been assured in Psalms 8:6-9 — this great salvation. Were those Hebrew Christians in danger of compromising or drifting away from their loyalty to it? Had the author sensed or witnessed such?

THE CLASS SESSION

Brainstorm the word revelation. What does the word say to you personally — especially as the word relates to man's knowledge of God, and his personal growth as he sees God working out his purpose in the world?

Why is this "awareness" so badly needed in our lives today? Or is it? How long has it been since you examined the size and dimensions of your God? Is he, indeed, too small? How big should he be to account for life as we live it today? — the new age into which the world entered in August, 1945 — the run-away increase in world population (one-third of which is hungry — many starving) — the new morality, or lack of it — the easy acceptance of war as a means of solving differences and other problems — the rejection of conscience when it does exist in this and other areas — our neighbors who are hurting because of unemployment and privation — the low level of integrity in many areas of government and economic life, (for instance, is our "free enterprise system" trying to annihilate itself with the staggering abuses in advertising, price raising, etc.?) — and especially, is God big enough to challenge his Church with the dependability of his purpose for us?

Add to these and other dilemmas we see and feel each day, and try to place over against them the all-powerful resources of faith, as in Hebrews we are urged to leave off our "drifting," and "draw near." Actually, many if not most of today's problems are now global. Someone said recently that very little of life,

and its systems and practices sixty-five years ago, remain unchanged.

In the face of this, Church leaders and others pondering the vastness of concerns involved respond in various ways. Recently I heard a Roman Catholic archbishop mention a number of areas in our country where the moral influence of the Church today is on the decrease. Also, a young person — in quest for meaning for her life — said the problems of her life were not dealt with in the Bible, and that she saw no reason to bother the God of so long ago with them.

How would you deal with these ideas? (No clichés, please.) Could it be that we in Adult classes are more peripherally involved with "what we once believed, or what others say at the office or out in the community" than in hard in-depth Bible study and research for deeper meanings — so much so that it amounts to little more than the paganisms of the past? I'm asking you. Not all are so, I know. But it is almost socially respectable to ask what the well-dressed paganism will wear this season (movement-wise, that is).

Here are some questions you may want to consider, and to answer: In what ways has God revealed himself to you personally? In what ways do you think he is making himself and his will known to society? List these.

DO WRITE IN THIS SPACE

Give a one line answer to each of these questions: How do you know God best (personally)? How do you confess your faith, other than at Church Worship?

CONCLUSION: "All the waves, signs, and documents of past history — including the Old Testament — lead up to a person, the person Jesus, personally unique. The appeal is to "draw near" to the person. While we as individual persons have wills of our own, we are at all times under God's will. Therefore, we are at our superior best selves, as we grope and search to find fulfillment in this relationship.

PRAYER: Dear Father, keep watch over our hearts, as you keep trying to break into our lives with new insights based on old truths, and to redeem us from the un-abundant life. Amen.

AMONG US TEACHERS: How effective do you feel the work of teaching is in your class? We might do well to remember that no teaching has taken place until learning has occurred.

NEXT WEEK

What Does It Mean To Care?

Read: Hebrews 4:14 through 5:10. This session deals with the second great affirmation in Hebrews, "We have a Christ."

Evangelism then and now

(Continued from page one)

profession of faith. We used this method for a few years until it began to lose something. It is seldom used anymore.

For a period of time, we received many new members through the church school. Dr. Brumley, who was Conference Secretary of Education for so many years, would remind us that the majority of members on profession of faith came through the church school.

Following this period, we began to have simultaneous meetings. We would go to the Little Rock Conference for a week and then they would come to our conference. Sometimes they would have a few teams out visiting while we were having service at the church. This was not quite as effective as the visitation program and gradually lost ground as the others seemed to do.

I do not attempt to set myself up as a judge. Neither do I claim to know the solution to the problems facing the Church today. But as a retired member of our great group of Methodist ministers and one sitting on the sidelines watching the game being played, I am vitally interested in my Church.

I do feel however that the majority of us do realize that here in the field of evangelism is where we may be falling short. It seems to me that we are now searching for something to get hold of to help us to get back in the evangelistic spirit and become again the soul-saving Church that John Wesley wanted us to be.

Laity lost interest?

It may be that the laity of the Church has somehow lost interest in evangelism. I remember early in my ministry how someone would come to the preacher quite often and ask that you join with them in praying for a son, daughter, husband, or friend that was not a Christian. They would be very much concerned about this person because he had not accepted Christ. I have not had this experience to happen to me in sometime.

We read from time to time in our *Arkansas Methodist* that some church had a revival and Brother So and So did the preaching, and someone had charge of the music, but so seldom do they tell that so many converts and so many people joined the Church on profession of faith. I still believe the mission of the Church is to seek and save the lost. Jesus said in Luke 19-10, "I come to seek and to save that which is lost," and again in Luke 5-10, "I come not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."



"I still believe the mission of the Church is to save the lost"

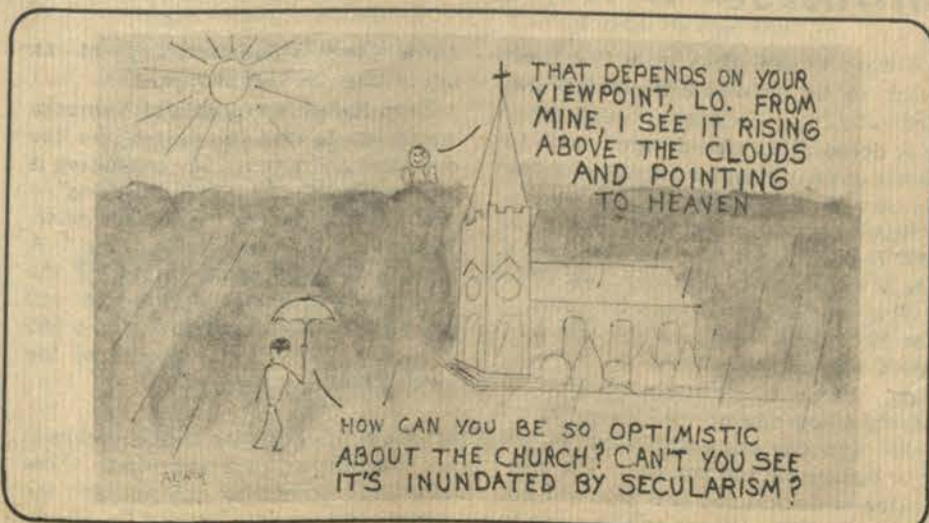
As recorded in Revelation, the second chapter, John, in writing to the seven churches, writes to the church at Ephesus, "But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember from that which you have fallen. Repent and do the work you did at first." As I think of this scripture, it seems to me that the first love of a new convert is to share that new experience with someone.

How many times have we seen persons get up from the altar and extend a hand as if to say, "I accept Christ," and then go back into the congregation and put their arms around someone and tell them what a wonderful Savior they have found! How many times do we see someone plead with this person to come to the same altar and give themselves to the same Savior and Lord! This may not be your interpretation of the Scriptures. I just like to think that is exactly what it means to me.

God bless you my brethren. My prayers are with you. You are a great group, and I am happy to be one of you although I have been retired since 1958.

†
*Brother Taylor, now living in Osceola, is a retired member of the North Arkansas Conference. He observed his 88th birthday Dec. 20, 1974. He retired in 1958.

"Hi" and "Lo"



Update old time religion

(Continued from page one)

people will gather to hear a Billy Graham or Reverend Ike. They're not the people who need talking to the most, since they're probably well-meaning and God-fearing to start. Even so, a hundred thousand shouters don't an angel make.

"America's problems are bone deep and of long standing"

The people who need to be reached, along with everybody else, are those who are ripping off society, legally and otherwise, in sundry different ways:

They include the business executive whose multi-national corporation is strangling the life blood out of developing nations.

The politician who serves the few at the expense of the masses.

The parent who brutalizes children.

The landlord who gouges his tenants and the merchant who robs his customers through excessive prices.

The beauty and the tragedy

The beauty of the matter is that many of these people probably attend church Sunday after Sunday, and are generous contributors. The tragedy is that they're not being talked to as strongly as they should be, with some unadorned, hard-hitting, blunt, say-it-like-it-is preaching that would make the Haves quake in their \$80 shoes and give realistic hope to America's Have-nots.

And what could America's preachers elucidate on in these difficult weeks and years ahead? They could talk about the arms race and America's obsession with being the biggest and the best, about wanting to be first in everything.

They could talk more about ways to settle the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and our nation's role in that settlement.

They could talk about our lack of a national food policy to save the lives of millions of starving people throughout

the world. In fact, they could talk about all of the unresolved crises that have led us to where we are today.

The Boston school controversy wasn't inevitable, nor were quotas for minorities and women. It was the nation's hard-headedness and its failure to deal fairly and head-on with racism and sexism that have intensified these problems. And the Church, itself, is no less to blame.

For a layman to advise preachers on what to preach is risky at best, maybe even heretical, but to do so without admitting that there are practical dangers and severe obstacles would be downright folly. Certainly, it wouldn't be easy for a minister to point a critical finger at one of his wealthiest and more supportive members and say, "Now, John, you know your company's not doing right in Chile. You should be ashamed of yourself. And when are you going to do something to help those Blacks in South Africa?"

A mission that begins at home

The minister who does this will raise a myriad of problems for himself and his church, including losing money and members. But somewhere down the line it's an issue that will have to be faced if the Church is going to regain its once vaunted status and recapture the disenchanted who have begun to turn their backs on the Church.

However, another problem looms just as large. It seems that for many people it's easier to preach the Gospel to the unreached in faraway lands than to their own neighbors. It's apparently more glamorous to go to Africa and South America to Christianize and convert; at least you don't lose friends that way. Yet it would seem to me that we could do more for the world if we first sought to transform the hearts and minds of people here.

†
*Mr. Daniels is Director of Interpretative Services for the Division of Education and Cultivation for the Board of Global Ministries. His office is in New York.

'Although sick, Sunday School a remarkable success,' Christian educator tells consultation

by Thomas S. McAnally

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMC) — The Sunday School, a unique American institution, is sick, at least among main-line Protestant churches.

The cause of that illness and whether or not it will result in death was the central focus of a four-day "Confrontation Sunday School" consultation held here late in January under the sponsorship of the United Methodist Christian Educators Fellowship (CEF) and the Center of Continuing Education at Scarritt College.

There was no common diagnosis among the 230 participants but by the close of the meeting most were agreeing that the Sunday School will survive with its continuing health depending on a blend of continuity with the past and change for the future.

The consultation dealt specifically with the Sunday morning school, that period of time usually between 9:30 and 10:30 when people join together for fellowship and study.

Since 1959 there has been a decrease of 22.73 per cent in United Methodist church school attendance. Seventy-seven per cent of all church schools in United Methodism have less than 100 persons in attendance and only 3.1 per cent of United Methodist Church schools have more than 300 participants.

Most of the participants in the Nashville consultation were professional Christian educators although a small number were local church volunteer educators. Because of limited accommodations, more than 100 persons were not permitted to register, a fact which CEF executive R. Harold Hipps said illustrates the high interest today in the status of the Sunday School. A second "Confrontation Sunday School" with the same leadership will be held April 15-17 at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

Robert Lynn, professor of religious education at Union Theological Seminary and co-author of the book, *The Big Little School*, said the real test for American Protestantism is how and what it does with Sunday School.

"Wherever evangelical Protestantism is strong there you will find a vibrant Sunday School"

"Whereas most people describe Sunday School as a standoff and failure, it is a remarkable success," he declared. "Wherever evangelical Protestantism is strong there you will find a vibrant Sunday School."

All of the four resource leaders at the consultation noted that Sunday School attendance in so-called evangelical churches and sects is increasing while statistics show a downward trend in the large "main-line" churches.

The Sunday School movement began in America in the 1830's and was a lay activity outside the institutional church. Sara Little, professor of Christian education at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, Va., said tension began with the take-over of the lay "owned" movement by the institutional church.

That tension has increased, she said, as Christian education programs have become more sophisticated and as churches have employed professional Christian educators.

"If it were not for the Sunday School the Church would have died a long time ago"

John W. Westerhoff, III, associate professor of religion and education at Duke University Divinity School, a strong critic of the Sunday School in the past, said he now has a new appreciation for many of its values. "If it were not for the Sunday School the church would have died long ago," he acknowledged. "Nevertheless, Sunday Schools in small main-line churches are sick; sick in part because they have tried to become modern church schools and failed. Sunday School statistics boards in the front of their churches dramatize their situation and cause degeneration. Denominational programs bring on feelings of inadequacy and failure."

He called for a reformation in the traditional Sunday School, a process which he said is already taking place in some instances. A "furable" Sunday School, he said, is not yet realized but is one which can be conceived of because it has value for a significant number of lay persons who are equipped with the necessary skills to build it.

Where can educators, particularly those employed by the church, begin to cure the ailing Sunday School? Providing some pointed suggestions was Richard Murray, professor of Christian education and director of continuing education at Perkins School of Theology.

"Look and listen at the Sunday School elements you can support and openly and frequently affirm the features you feel you don't have to reject," he encouraged. Most of the affirmation by professionals, he said, has been going to the non-Sunday School element of the church's Christian education program. As an illustration, he said educators can affirm and not reject most of the songs used in adult classes.

Instead of bemoaning the short time used for study in most Sunday morning classes, Murray said educators can "affirm the coffee drinking" and "embrace the teachable moment" by focusing the class on one

important topic for 30 or 40 minutes. The "caring" time of the Sunday School classes, he said, has been a value through the years.

He also chided professional educators for using new terminology which ignores the continuity with the past.

He was also critical of what he called the "block oversell" of denominational curriculum. "We have begged to be kicked in the teeth because we have said everybody ought to use the curriculum," he said. "The church must provide options decisively but with integrity."

The lack of educational leadership and specialists beyond the local church, he said, is critical. "The reorganization of staff on conference and general church levels has left our church without leadership to take care of the educational task," he said.

In a closing panel presentation, CEF executive Hipps said he has never believed it was the role of the professional Christian educator to be the "keeper of the Sunday School."

Hipps said the professional is now becoming a congregational educator and not just a church school educator, "moving from pastor-director relationship to staff-team relationship, from being certified to a concern for being qualified, from answering to asking, from telling to listening, selling to sharing, defending to renewing, training teachers to developing leaders, supervising to empowering, leading to enabling."

Churches "asking for someone with a strong Biblical and theological foundation"

There is an increasing number of churches employing professional educators, Hipps reported. "They are asking for someone with a strong Biblical and theological foundation who can make that come alive in the life of the church," he said. "They are not asking simply for someone to work with the youth."

Part of the frustration of educators, Professor Little said, is that they try to make some particular program such as the Sunday School infallible. "As a result they feel despair which can be self-fulfilling."

Both Little and Westerhoff quoted from a speech made in 1860 at an International Sunday School convention to describe the Sunday School: "The Sunday School appears to take on the character of an endless experiment by the grandeur of its objective, by the inexhaustible interest it touches, by the immortality of the souls it nourishes, as well as by the variety of the conditions in which it exists. It is invested with the mystery and charm of an unfinished enterprise. Its plan is never quite filled out."

†

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Below is a schedule for the Daily Bible Readings, which the Board of Discipleship invites you to use as a regular guide in your homes.

Feb. 23—Sunday	Mark 8:31-35
Feb. 24	Luke 4:1-4
Feb. 25	Romans 5:6-11
Feb. 26	John 10:11-16
Feb. 27	John 10:22-28
Feb. 28	John 10:31-35
Mar. 1	John 10:17-21
Mar. 2—Sunday	John 2:13-17

One Great Hour of Sharing

March 9, 1975

Streamlined Jurisdictional Conference planned, with 'economize' a watchword

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — The 1976 Jurisdictional Conference of the South Central Jurisdiction, scheduled for Lincoln, Nebraska, will be a "streamlined" Conference, if plans being made by the general program committee, which is the Jurisdictional Council on Finance and Administration, are pursued. Not only will it be a "streamlined" Conference, but efforts are being made to economize and do only those things necessary for the Conference to do.

Among those necessary things is the election of four new bishops. Dr. John Wesley Hardt, chairman of the committee, stated, "delegates are coming to the Conference expecting to work, and

we want to see plans made for their work to be done effectively and expeditiously."

A decision has already been made to delete one day from the regular four-day session of the Conference. It will be officially opened on Tuesday, July 13th, and conclude with the consecration of the new bishops on Thursday, July 15th. Still in the memory of some delegates to the 1972 Conference was the fact that the Conference concluded its business long before the designated time of official adjournment — delegates "killed time" awaiting the consecration of the new bishops on the last day. The committee is determined that this will not happen in 1976. Efforts will be made to

move the Conference along at an interesting and effective pace.

Even though the people of Nebraska would like to plan "big things" for the delegates and visitors, the committee is admonishing them to "hold the reins" — "don't be too elaborate with your entertainment — this is a working time." A limit of \$100,000 has been set for the Conference session budget which will pay the travel, room/board of the 366 delegates, plus other expenses of the Conference.

"We believe that the local churches of the Jurisdiction will appreciate these efforts to economize and yet get the necessary work done," stated Dr. Hardt.

Arkansas Methodist

METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME

The following people gave memorial gifts to the Methodist Children's Home in December as tribute of their love, sympathy, and respect of a loved one or friend. A memorial card has been sent to the family in notifying them of this remembrance.

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by Lois and Jack Feimster
WM. AINSWORTH
by Mr. & Mrs. Wm. S. Arnold
WILL AINSWORTH
by Mr. & Mrs. R. B. Newcome
by Mr. & Mrs. Benton Newcome
by Miss Martha Pugh
by Mr. & Mrs. Bob Pugh
by Mr. & Mrs. Taylor Prewitt
REV. HERMAN BOND
by Jack Richardson
MRS. SHERRY DUNLAP BRATTON
by Mr. & Mrs. Howard Lucy
by Mr. & Mrs. Walter Ellis
by Mr. & Mrs. Wm. C. Koch
by Mr. & Mrs. Jack Brashear, Jr.
by Miss Marjorie Smith
by Mr. & Mrs. Ken Johnson
by Mrs. Curtis L. Finch
by Mr. & Mrs. J. K. Stanley
MISS LOUISE BOZONE
by Mr. & Mrs. C. P. Lusby
R. L. BECK, SR.
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MR. PAUL BENSON
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WILL BATTY
by Mr. & Mrs. Edward A. Moore
MRS. J. W. BALDWIN
by Josephine Martin
MISS MILDRED CONE
by Mrs. Edwin D. Gregory
by Mae Lindsey
by Tiny Turner
by Mr. & Mrs. Earl Cochran
by Mr. & Mrs. W. P. Spotts
by Mr. & Mrs. James Gay
by Mr. & Mrs. J. T. Warren
by Portland United Methodist Women
c/o Mrs. R. B. Newcomb
JOHN COLLIER
by Fay & Alvin Thompson
W. H. COOK
by Mr. & Mrs. John H. Palmer
PATRICK CLIFFORD
by Mrs. Emma Sue Gordon
by Miss Jean Gordon
LLOYD CURTIS
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by Callom & Carney Clinic
MRS. LUCRETIA DAVIS
by Georgie D. Mason
by Staff of the U.S. Army Health
Clinic & Mr. W.L. McMichael
FLOYD DUDLEY
by Mr. & Mrs. Larry Brewer
MALLORY D. DAVIS
by Mr. & Mrs. Nony (Charles)
and Family
BENNY PARK ELDRIDGE
by Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Freeman
D. P. FENDER
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MRS. MELLIE McCANN FOWLER
by Mrs. Robt. F. Derden
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by McNeil Methodist Church
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MRS. GEO. W. GOELZER
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by Miss Jean Gordon
MRS. IDA GOLDEN
by Mrs. Elizabeth Cogbill
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F. L. HILL
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(To be continued)

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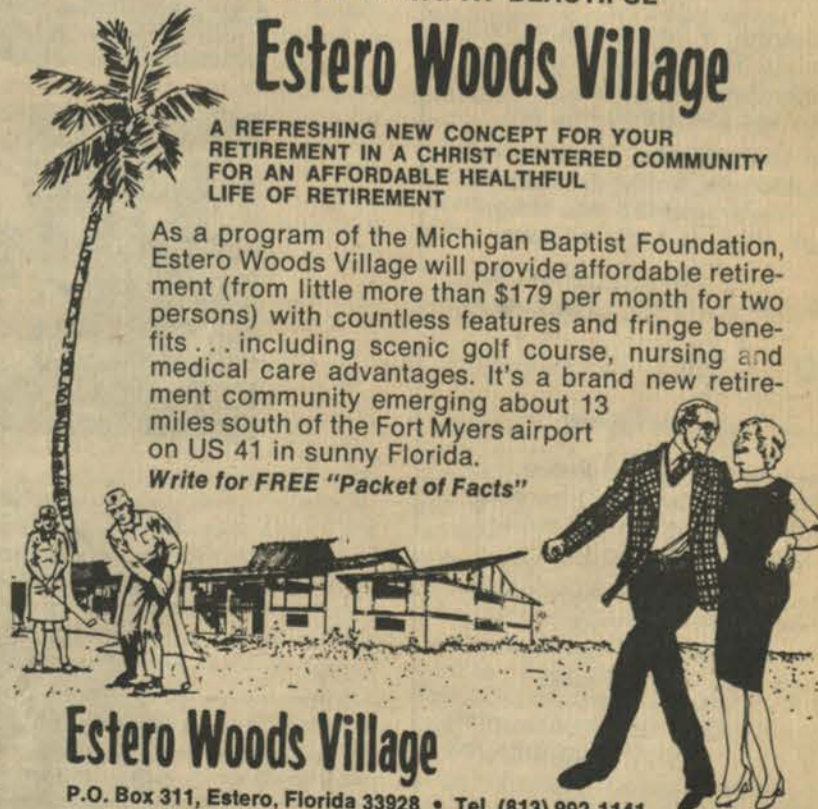
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Fort Smith District UMY Rally

The Fort Smith District UMY Rally held at Paris United Methodist Church Feb. 7-8 was directed by the Rev. Mrs. Carol Lascaro, district youth coordinator. Program leaders included Mrs. Margaret Thompson, leading a segment on Situation Ethics; Bruce Vick, on Values Identification; Kim Kelton presenting the morning devotion, and Jim McDonald showing Friday Night at the Movies. Meals were served by United Methodist Women of the host church. The Rev. Vernon Paysinger is pastor.

One of the featured activities was a polaroid scavenger hunt. Some of the scenes shown here are the result of that contest.



Poetry Panorama

By Barbara Mulkey

Grace Noll Crowell quoted the 142nd Psalm . . . "I looked on my right hand, and behold, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul" . . . and she said, "There could be no lonelier sounding words in any language . . . No man cared for my soul." The poet writing of loneliness speaks a universal language.

Compulsion

I cleaned my tumbled house today
And put the scattered things away . . .
These tasks are needful, as I know,
I learned that lesson long ago.

But something else, a stronger force,
Impelled me, fruitlessly of course,
To rush around like mad today,
Right after you had gone away.

—by Etta Caldwell Harris
Hamburg, Ark.

Loneliness

Have you ever had a feeling
When you're far away from home
That something's in you dwelling,
A strange mysterious form.

There's something in your throat;
Tears hard to hold back.
Your shoulders they feel ever
Like a stuffed cotton sack.

—by Peggy Marie Lawrence
Calico Rock, Ark.

